

Habitat Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Gilson Mountain Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Project - Year 1

Proposal Number: 1103

DWR Region: Central Region

Lead Agency: NRCS

County: Juab

Project Manager: Mark Farmer

PM Phone: 8014915653

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 07/01/2008

Project Location: North of the Gilson mountains, 4 miles south of Jericho, and 8 miles east of Little Sahara Recreation area.

Project Description: Improve 640 acres of historic sage grouse habitat by controlling cheatgrass with the herbicide Plateau and drill seeding perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

Description of Problem/Need: Historic sage grouse habitat in the Gilson mountain area was burned in a 1996 wildfire. Private land that was burned was not reseeded after the fire and is in poor condition. Annual weeds and cheatgrass are abundant. In order to restore sage grouse habitat and improve livestock grazing, perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs will have to be established.

Objectives: Improve livestock grazing, and distribution. Improve deer winter range, and sage grouse habitat.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: The project area occurs within the sagebrush steppe type which is one of the key habitats identified in the WAP. This area supports mule deer (Tier III) and Greater sage grouse (Tier II). Numerous other species of concern (Tier III) also inhabit the area including neotropical birds and raptors.

The proposed treatments lie within Central Region UPCD focus areas.

The proposed treatments will help address strategies outlined in the WDARM sage grouse conservation plan; By 2010, reduce the threat of conversion of sagebrush stands to invasive/noxious weed communities. Work with public and private partners to implement livestock management plans that address seasonal needs of sage-grouse and livestock operations. By 2016, increase brood-rearing habitat quality in the Resource Area.

The proposed projects will address some of the habitat management strategies outlined in the deer management plan for herd unit 19 – West Desert including: continue to restore and improve sagebrush steppe habitats critical to deer according to DWR's Habitat Initiative; cooperate with federal land management agencies and private landowners in carrying out habitat improvements such as reseedings, controlled burns, water developments etc. on public and private lands; and maintain and/or enhance forage production through direct range improvements throughout the unit to achieve population management objectives.

The proposed projects will address the following goals and objectives of the Division of Wildlife Resources most recent strategic management plan:

Resource Goal: expand wildlife populations and conserve sensitive species by protecting and improving wildlife habitat.

Objective 1: protect existing wildlife habitat and improve 500,000 acres of critical habitats and watersheds throughout the state by 2010.

Objective 3: conserve sensitive species to prevent them from becoming listed as threatened or endangered.

Constituency Goal: Achieve broad-based support for Division programs and budgets by demonstrating the value of wildlife to all citizens of Utah.

Objective 2: improve communication with wildlife organizations, public officials, private landowners, and government agencies to obtain support for Division programs.

Potential Risks: Failure to control cheatgrass. Failure of seeded plants to establish.

Proposed Methods: The entire 1,280 acre pasture (sections 17 & 20) will be split in half with a cross fence. One half, 640 acres, will be aerially sprayed with the herbicide Plateau in early September to control cheatgrass. In late October, the project area will be drill seeded with a mix of perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

Shapefile Name: HPD2009\GIS Proposals\CR\1103.shp

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 01/15/2008

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

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Monitoring Information: One Range Trend study will be established in the project area.

Grazing Management:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer	Domestic Livestock	Pronghorn	Greater Sage-grouse
Neotropical Birds			

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
Private	640
Total	640

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
GIP	\$6,200.00		\$0.00
Private	\$18,000.00		\$0.00
ESMF Sage-grouse	\$57,020.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$81,220.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Materials and Supplies	Materials for 1 mile of 4 strand barbwire fence	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Personal Services	Build 1 mile of 4 strand barbwire fence	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Contractual Services	Aerial spraying of 640 acres @ 15/acre	\$9,600.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	30 gallons of Plateau @ \$270/gallon	\$8,100.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	20 gallons of Dynamic surfactant @ \$46/gallon	\$920.00	\$0.00
Personal Services	Drill seeding 640 acres @ \$20/acre	\$0.00	\$12,800.00
Seed (GBRC)	Seed for 640 acres @ \$60/acre	\$38,400.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	2 gates, hardware and posts	\$0.00	\$200.00
Personal Services	Install 2 gates	\$0.00	\$200.00
Materials and Supplies	four 600 gallon water troughs @ \$250/each	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
	Totals	\$57,020.00	\$24,200.00

Project Map:

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